

COMMAntary: an e-newsletter of the Minnesota Conference - United Church of Christ

God is still speaking,

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Save the Date

Action at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ postponed a vote on the budget until a Special Meeting of the Conference. An official announcement of that meeting will follow. For now, please hold the following date and time:

**Saturday, September 26, 2009
beginning at 1:00 pm
@ Wayzata Community Church**

The Board of Directors considered several venues but chose one that was easily accessible, had adequate parking, and had room to accommodate the number of participants that might be expected.

News of the Conference

Joys and Concerns

1. Rev. Tom George, Interim Minister, requests prayers for a new health concern. Tom is dealing with steroid induced diabetes. The steroids are working, but the side effects are getting all of his attention.

2. Saint Charles UCC would like to report that some progress has been made on their building. The stained glass windows were able to be removed. The image to the right is of the windows in the damaged building.



3. We are pleased to welcome to the Minnesota Conference the Rev. Deborah Bartelt, Acting Minister for the Rainy River Regional Parish which includes Pilgrim Congregational Church, Williams; United Congregational UCC, Birchdale; and First Congregational UCC, Baudette. Rev. Bartelt comes to us from pastorates in Wisconsin. She is a graduate of Lakeland College and Eden Theological Seminary. Her work with the Rainy River churches begins officially on July 1.

General Synod 27

Keep up with the Synod goings on the [UCNews site](#), through the [UCNews Twitter feed](#), watch a [live video feed](#) of the plenary sessions and major speeches, and read varied individuals' versions of Synod through their [myUCC blogs](#). [Check out the UCNews article on this topic](#).

Pilgrim Point Camp News

Have we got a deal for you! Unfortunately, "Clergy Camp" needed to be canceled and that has left us with an empty week, sort of. Actually Clergy Camp was a week later than Pilgrim Point's preferred date so we are using the week before, August 9 - 14, for our new "Minister's Camp" If you are a CE Director, Youth Leader, Pastor, Chaplain, Secretary, etc. etc. and you need a place to get away from it all, come to Pilgrim Point for one day or six.

The price is too good to advertise here so you must go to the [Pilgrim Point Camp website](#) to see the costs. (a little trick we learned from amazon.com) These are rock bottom prices so don't miss out on a chance to bring your whole family to a jewel of the conference on Lake Ida.

Please let us know if you're coming, how long, and how many by August 3rd.

Hope to see you at the Point!

Children and Youth Formation News

Youth Ministry Leader Training & Retreat for Clergy & Lay Leaders (18 and older) August 28-30, 2009 | Pilgrim Point Camp in Alexandria, MN

\$100 for the first person/church,

\$75 for additional team members

Registrations are due by August 1, 2009

[Find Registration forms by clicking here.](#)

the Minnesota Conference presents the Fall 2009 CYE:

Pluralism: Putting God in More than One Box

October 9-11 or 16-18 | Pilgrim Point, Alexandria,
MN

Early Registration: \$75/youth, \$50/adult

Registration after September 14 - \$85/youth, \$60/adult

Deadline for all registrations is October 2, 2009

[Youth registration form is available by clicking here.](#)

[Adult registration form is available by clicking here.](#)

We need to hear from you! Please take 15 minutes to complete this survey if you volunteer or are staff working with youth, are a young adult (19-30) or are a youth. This survey is being done by the national setting of the UCC but information from the MN Conference respondents will be sent to us to better serve the youth, young adults and leaders in our 139 churches in the MN Conference. Many thanks to those who have already filled out the survey.

<http://uccyasurvey.questionpro.com>

Please forward this on to youth, young adults or youth leaders in your congregation. Your help is huge!

(BTW - there is a contest among the 39 UCC Conferences for responses and we are still in the lead, but by only 1 with Northern California coming on strong!)

ASDIC Pulpit Supply & Worship Leadership

ASDIC Metamorphosis Ministry, a ministry of prayerful examination, relationship building and community formation for racial justice, now offers worship leadership throughout the State. Led by Herbert Perkins, ASDIC ministry services include preaching, liturgy design, worship leadership and adult forums. Related services such as youth programming and retreats are also offered. [A flyer containing more information is linked here.](#)

Herbert A. Perkins, Ph.D., is an M.Div. candidate and serves as adjunct faculty at United Theological Seminary. A member of Cherokee Park United Church in Saint Paul, he has over 30 years of intercultural and interethnic leadership experience, is a frequent guest preacher and workshop leader around the Conference, and has provided worship leadership and pastoral care to various UCC congregations when clergy were on sabbatical, vacation or medical leave. His services are available on a sliding scale basis. Herb may be contacted at 651-224-2728 or hperkins@asdic-alliance.org.

Family Disaster Supplies Kit

We recently received a sample of a Family Disaster Supplies Kit in the Conference Office from the National Disaster Ministry Office. They are recommending that families put together these kits and place them in a handy location in the house. A Disaster Supplies Kit should include:

- Bottles of Water
- Energy Bar
- Whistle
- Flashlight/Batteries
- Dust Mask
- Rain Poncho
- Mylar (Emergency) Blanket
- Reflective Arm Band
- Radio/Batteries

- First Aid Kit and Guide
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Comb
- Hand Sanitizer
- Sewing Kit
- Waterproof Pen/Note Pad
- ID Information/Medical Information

One useful part of the demo kit at the office was a [combination crank powered flashlight/radio/siren](#). Check them out! You can also find useful information on this topic on [FEMA's website](#).

2009 Clergy Information Review

All clergy with Standing in the Minnesota Conference should have received the **2009 Information Review** forms in May (by email or by post). Forms were to be returned by June 15. To date, slightly less than half have been returned.

Please return your Information Review form *as soon as possible* to Marita in the Conference Office (maritak@uccmn.org or 122 W. Franklin Rm. 323, Minneapolis, MN 55404). Should you need the form, contact Marita by email or at (612) 230-3371.

Your help in keeping clergy files up-to-date is greatly appreciated.

Congregational Resource Guide

[The Congregational Resource Guide \(CRG\)](#) is a unique online guide to resources for congregations and those who serve them. It is designed to answer questions and make connections to useful information. This guide exists to help congregational leaders connect with resources that will enable them to face challenges and foster vitality in their communities of faith. The CRG is an effort of the Alban Institute in consultation with the Indianapolis Center for Congregations and other specialists.

2010 Heritage Grants

New information is available on the 2010 St. Paul's Family Foundation Heritage Grants. [Click here to learn more](#).

2009-10 Conference Directory

Alison Bents will be working on updates, corrections and changes to the Conference Directory this summer. Please check the contact information for your church and yourself, and get changes to alisonb@uccmn.org before August 1, 2009.

Upcoming Events

Called to be a Faithful Minnesota: a Witness of Lament

Minnesota people of faith are gathering at the Minnesota State Capitol for a witness of lament on the morning of **Tuesday, June 30 from 10:00 - 11:30am** to beg Gov. Tim Pawlenty not to abandon the health of Minnesota's citizens, especially those most in need. The rally is being organized by the Minnesota Council of Churches in cooperation with many other organizations and congregations.

At the end of the legislative session the governor vetoed funds for health insurance for 30,000 extremely vulnerable Minnesotans. Now his unallotment plan accelerates these health care cuts by two months. He also plans to unallot emergency assistance and services to children, families and people with disabilities.

As people of faith we want to send the message that this is not the Minnesota we are called to be. It is against the teachings of all our religious traditions. We want to remind Gov. Pawlenty that he is governor of all the people and plead for his care for all.

Join us for this rally:

Gather at Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill, 105 University Avenue, St. Paul, by 10:15am. We will stage in congregational groups and process in a somber, funeral-like procession beginning at 10:30am. Please wear black and bring old flowers and notes to the governor expressing your faith-based concern about these budget decisions.

We will process down Martin Luther King Blvd, cross and gather on the South steps of the Capitol. Please deposit your flowers and cards in the baskets provided. A delegation will deliver the cards and letters to the Governor's office.

Speakers will include Bishop Peter Rogness, Saint Paul Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman, Temple Israel Minneapolis; and other faith leaders, as well as the Rev. Peg Chamberlin, Executive Director of the Minnesota Council of Churches and Rev. Grant Abbott, Executive Director of the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches.

For more information contact Gail Anderson, Minnesota Council of Churches at gail.anderson@mnchurches.org, or 612-230-3210. [Continue to check this website for details about the gathering.](#)

Sponsored by: the Minnesota Council of Churches, the St. Paul Area Council of Churches and many congregations of many faiths.

Invitation to UCC 20 & 30 Somethings

UCC 20/30 somethings are getting together for kickball and fellowship at Bryant Square Park July 9th-30th. The

evening will begin with a picnic potluck at 7:00 followed by kickball at 8. Fellowship will continue after the game at Bryant Lake Bowl at 9:00ish. Come when you can. Bryant Square Park is located in S. Minneapolis on 31st and Bryant just past Uptown. If you have questions please call Amy Wick Moore 651-645-3765. If it rains we'll meet at Bryant Lake Bowl.

Becoming an Intergenerational Church

Make plans now to attend one or both of the Intergenerational Church events:

Communicating Across the Generations

w. Rev. J. Bennet Guess, Minister and Team Leader
for the Proclamation, Identity and
Communication Ministry of the UCC

October 1-2, 2009 @ Christ the King Retreat Center,
Buffalo, MN

Ministering to the Missing Generation

w. Rev. Carol Howard Merrit, author of Tribal Church

October 30, 2009, 9am-3pm @ United Theological
Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, MN

[Find more details, a flyer and registration information by clicking here.](#)

Employment Opportunities

www.uccmn.org

Check out the Employment Opportunities portion of the Minnesota Conference Website. [Click here to see listings.](#)

Current listings:

- Part time supply pastor
- Youth ministry
- Organist/choir director
- Interim minister

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